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ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

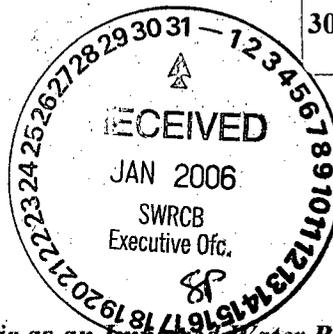
100 NORTH CANYONS PARKWAY, LIVERMORE, CA 94551

PHONE (925) 454-5000

303 (d) Deadline: 1/31/06

January 31, 2006

Ms. Selica Potter, Acting Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Executive Office  
1001 I Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814



**Re: Proposed Section 303(d) Listing of Del Valle Reservoir as an Impaired Water Body for Mercury and Polychlorinated Biphenyls**

Dear Ms. Potter:

Zone 7 has reviewed the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Board's) September 2005 DRAFT staff report recommending Revisions of the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments. Zone 7 has the following comments on the proposed listing of the Del Valle Reservoir as an impaired water body for mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

By way of background, the Del Valle Reservoir is owned and operated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), in which State Water Project (SWP) water from the South Bay Aqueduct (SBA) is stored along with captured local runoff to serve the three SBA contractors: Zone 7 Water Agency, Alameda County Water District and the Santa Clara Valley Water District. The reservoir is operated both as a drinking water supply source and for flood control purposes. Storage operations are complicated by the flood control requirements imposed by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Per the existing 2002 303(d) list, there are currently no reservoirs that are a part of the SWP network listed as an impaired water body. Listing this reservoir as an impaired water body for mercury and PCBs could potentially have implications both on DWR's operations as well as on the public's perception of the water quality of their drinking water supply source. Although the proposed listing is based on fish tissue sampling, there is a potential for the public to perceive their drinking water source as contaminated for these constituents. There is historical water quality data available indicating that no mercury or PCBs have been detected in this reservoir. In addition, based on existing watershed studies and monitoring data, there are no identifiable sources for either mercury or PCBs in this water body.

The proposed listing is based solely on fish tissue samples collected in April 2001. Catfish and largemouth bass were found to exceed the mercury guideline, while catfish alone was found to exceed the PCB guidelines. The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) stocks Del Valle Reservoir with both catfish and largemouth bass for recreational purposes. 70% of the stocking is done with small fish (approximately one-pound size) and the remaining 30% consists of "trophy size" fish. In our opinion, using a small sample of stocked fish (many of which are already "trophy size") as the sole indicator of the "impairment" of the water body is questionable based on presently available facts.